

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

Referring still to Figure 1 and also now to Figure 2, the scrubbing element 14 is a generally filamentous mass of synthetic or organic fibers 16 that is formed in a cubical or rectangular cross-sectional shape to generally conform to the conventional shape of a soap bar, although other shapes, including ellipsoids, oblate ellipsoids and even spherical shapes may be used. In a particular embodiment, the scrubbing element 14 is comprised of a durable, three-dimensional, non-woven nylon filament network generally known as SCOTCH BRITE, available from the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. (3M) of St. Paul, Minnesota, although other similar materials may also be used. In other aspects, the scrubbing element 14 may be comprised of various natural filamentous materials such as wool, cotton or other similar fine, fibrous substances, or even the fibrous portion of various vascular plants, such as the well-known tropical dishcloth gourd of the Curcubitaceae family. The scrubbing element 14 may also be comprised of still other materials. For example, natural or synthetic sponges may be used. Additionally, fibrous metallic materials, known generally as "steel wool", and other similar materials may also be used. Such fibrous metallic materials may be formed of ferrous and non-ferrous materials.